

2

22. (Amended) A method for interconnecting a first location on a global communication network with a second location thereon, comprising the steps of:

providing an input device coupled to the first location on the global communication network, the input device having associated therewith a unique input device ID;

scanning a product code disposed on a product with the input device, which product code is representative of the product in commercial transactions, the step of scanning operable to extract the information contained in the product code to provide a unique value as an output;

associating the unique value with the unique input device ID in a message packet; and

in response to the step of scanning and the step of associating, connecting the first location to the second location.

26. (Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the step of accessing the database comprises the steps of:

accessing a remote location on the global communication network at an intermediate node thereon;

forwarding the unique value and unique device ID to the intermediate node;

wherein the database is disposed at the intermediate node;

retrieving the associated routing information from the database in the event of a positive match and forwarding the retrieved routing information back to the first location and connecting the first location to the second location in accordance with the retrieved information.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

S/N 09/494,924

Att. Dkt. No. PHL-24,913